



What Does the New Year Hold?

Yesterday was January 1st, 2005. The year 2004 is gone forever. Some may be wondering, "What will the new year hold for us?" Will there be weddings? (I know of one being planned.) Will there be funerals? Will there be births (I know of one of these too!) Will there be good times? Will there be bad? Will there be changes that we don't like? Will there be changes that are good? For man, the future is completely unpredictable and while we can expect some things to happen, we really don't know what is going to happen, and we should not spend our time worrying about what MIGHT happen (Matthew 6:34) but we should always say, "If the Lord will, we shall live and do this or that" (James 4:15). So what will the New Year hold, if the Lord will?

The New Year holds time! Not counting yesterday and today, we have before us 12 months, 52 weeks, 354 days, 8496 hours, 509760 minutes, and 30,585,600 seconds. Anyway you look at it, we have time given to us. We can only live that time one moment at a time. Each moment is precious, priceless, and pregnant with potential for us to do that which is good and right, pure and holy. There is also the potential for us to use our time to do that which is evil and wrong, rotten and defiled. Potential, however, never accomplished anything! It's not until

the potential becomes the kinetic that things happen! How will we use our time in 2005? Let us not give place to Satan, but redeem each moment doing the Lord's will (Ephesians 5:16)!

The New Year holds opportunity! We should pray for opportunity, but we should also pray for the resources to be able to take advantage of the opportunities we have! Health, family, friends, fellow Christians, financial means, talents, and many other things are all resources that we all need to make the most of our opportunities. We can take appropriate advantage of those resources for good or we can neglect them. We also need to pray for the ability to recognize the presence of an opportunity. Many times opportunity knocks, but no one is home to hear the rap. Let's be on the alert for ways in which we can do that which is good toward all men (Galatians 6:10).

The New Year holds optimism! A new year is not a time to be pessimistic and think of all of the terrible things that COULD happen to us. Rather, it is a time for us to think optimistically! Out of all of the people on the earth, the Christian has the knowledge to think optimistically. We know that Jesus was raised from the dead. We know that the life of the Christian is the best life one could live. We know that one day Jesus will come again! The

faithful child of God has every reason to rejoice and nothing over which to brood (Philippians 4:4).

The New Year holds work! Since God created man, God has expected man to work to some degree. Man's first job was to dress and keep the garden (Genesis 2:15). Today we have a God given work as well. Jesus' has exemplified this work for us in his mission to seek and to save that which is lost (Luke 19:10). The church has the same work today. We must use the year 2005 fulfilling the mission that Jesus has for His body. We can fulfill this mission through our works of benevolence for the needy, edification of the saved, and evangelism for the lost. If we water and plant, then God will give the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6)! Each day that passes in this New Year, let us consider how we can be involved in this great work!

The New Year holds so much more than what we have set forth here, but these four things are definite starting points for us to make this New Year a great one. The New Year holds time, opportunity, optimism, and work. Let us put our hands to the work, with an optimistic attitude, using our time to serve the Lord and looking for those opportunities which are ever before us! May God bless this New Year for the church of Christ at Berryville!

Standing Like Janus — Tim Hall



“It’s harder to look forward than it is to look back. After all, the past is familiar; we lived in it. The future, however, is unknown...”

The new year comes with January, a month named for the mythical Roman god Janus. This legendary being was said to have two faces: one which looked back while the other looked ahead. That’s what we try to do as we prepare to greet another year.

It’s harder to look forward than it is to look back. After all, the past is familiar; we lived in it. The future, however, is unknown to all. We hope certain things will take place in the months ahead, but there’s no way to be sure. In some ways, it’s more comfortable to live in the past than it is to face the future.

We’re more like the Israelites of old than we care to admit. In Numbers 11:4-6 they revealed their restless hearts: "Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: 'Who will give us meat to eat? We remember

the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!" (NKJV)

"We remember . . ." That’s a refrain sung often by the Jews in the wilderness. It meant that they considered the things of the past better than what they were enduring on their journey. They actually urged Moses to take them back to Egypt!

Janus was not among the majority of this group. They only had faces for the past. Do we do better than these wanderers? Or do we often follow their example by yielding to craving for things which pull us away from God? Are we willing to set our faces to the future, believing the promises of God are better than anything this world can offer? If we don’t work to prevent it, our past will become our prison.

As we prepare to cross

from one year to the next, let us recall the admonition of Paul in Colossians 3:1-3: "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

The church is that number who have been called out of this world. We can’t help but remember how things used to be. Some things from which we were called were things we enjoyed. But we must not look only to the past. We must determine to fix our focus on the future, the glorious future God has promised to all who love and follow his Son.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Via *Forthright Magazine*
<http://www.forthright.net>



Bible Studies for the week of January 2nd, 2005

- AM Sermon.....What Will I Make of 2005?
- Scripture Reading..... Acts 17:24-28
- PM Sermon..... Take the Name of Jesus With You
- Scripture Reading..... 1 Corinthians 1:1-3
- Sunday Class The Book of Hebrews
- Wednesday Class.....Lessons from the Cross

Kevin's Korner

I trust that we all had a good time at our New Year's Eve celebration. It was enjoyable for me! There was plenty of good food and good times. We all sang and prayed in the New Year and that is a great way to start off a New Year.

The beginning of this new year marks another milestone in that toward the middle of this month, my family and I will have worked with the congregation here for three years. It's hard to believe it has been three years, yet the time has come and gone. Since we are having our baby in the middle of January, we are going to postpone our yearly "open house" marking our yearly anniversary with the church, until a later date.

Perhaps you have noticed the new bulletin format by now. I figured that a little change wouldn't hurt anything. Feel free to let me know what you think. I appreciate

any feedback that I can get on the bulletin and, by the way, if you have something you would like to see published in the bulletin, please let me know and I will see what I can do about getting it in.

Well, as many of you know, B-Day is rapidly approaching. The shower for Mary Lynn is this afternoon and just one fairly short week away, we will be hatching out number three. I think that we are both ready to get this baby external. Anyway, we would appreciate your prayers for both the baby and Mary Lynn as this new one, as they say in Costa Rica, "sees the light."

So, do you have any New Year's resolutions? I have at least one. Ask me what it is and I will tell you, but you have to tell me what one of your resolutions is too.

Many people use the New Year to make resolutions for this thing or

that. I was reading the comic strip, "The Born Loser" that someone sent to me in which "The Loser" was asking his wife if he wanted to hear his resolution. She said, "No." He said, "Why not." She said, "Your resolutions always go in one year and out the other!" Hmmm.

That's smarts! Seems like we all make resolutions of sorts such as losing weight, exercising more, or breaking some bad habit that we have developed. While these are good things to aspire to, let us remember 1 Timothy 4:8, "For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come." Perhaps we should make our resolutions along the line of godliness first and then our bodily resolutions will fall into place as well!

Whatever your resolution may be, I wish you the best success!



"For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things..." (1 Timothy 4:8)

Records for the week of December 26th, 2004

Sunday Bible Class	59
Sunday AM Worship.....	66
Sunday PM Worship.....	50
Wednesday Night Study.....	66
Contribution.....	\$1381.47
Budget.....	\$1778.13



Praises, Prayers, and Proclamations

Announcements

- We are thankful to God for this new Lord's Day. It is the day we honor His Son and the Love that He has shown us through Him. Let us worship in spirit and in truth!
- Please remember the following in your prayers: Pat Foster, Bells Palsey.
- Please remember our shut ins: Curtis and Opal Hull and Edith Mischler.
- This afternoon starting at 2:00 there is a drop-in baby shower for Mary Lynn Cauley and baby. The shower will be held at Shawna Steven's house. Mary Lynn is registered at the baby registry at Wal-Mart.
- Tonight after services will be the monthly elders and deacons meeting. If you have any items for any of these men, please contact one of them prior to the meeting.
- Next Sunday evening will be the monthly question and answer session. If you have a question you would like answered, please put it in the box in Kevin's office this week.
- For the month of January the following have assignments: Rusty Windle, Announcements; Jerry Roller, Worship Coordinator; Debbie and Beth Duncan, communion preparation; Kevin Cauley and Glenn Williams, Communion Carry.
- Our pantry item is: Canned Vegetables.



Welcome!

Family Times for Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class:	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship:	10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Worship:	6:00 PM
Ladies Bible Class:	10:30 AM
Wed. Evening Bible Class:	7:00 PM

Serving Each Other

	January 2nd, 2005	January 9th, 2005
Sunday Morning		
Songs:	Bill Fort	Ken Smith
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	George Eddings	Bill Fort
Scripture Reading:	Dan Hand	Perry Foster
Lord's Table	Clay Bozarth	Leon Duncan
(assist)	Glenn Quigley	Raymond Kimes
	Brent Moore	Brandon Foster
	Jack Gentry	Ray Duncan
Closing Prayer	Ken Smith	Jerry Roller
Sunday Evening		
Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Bruce Foster
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Rusty Windle	Dan Hand
Scripture Reading:	Dale Pinkley	Perry Foster
Lord's Table	Bob Phillips	Dale Pinkley
	Jerry Roller	Jack Gentry
Closing Prayer	Bob Moore	Jerry Roller
Wednesday		
Songs:	Bruce Foster	Glenn Quigley
Opening Prayer:	John Gass	Dale Pinkley
Invitation:	Kevin Cauley	Rusty Windle
Closing Prayer:	Ray Duncan	Brandon Foster

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